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*Assembly
California Legislature*



TIM LESLIE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT
September 10, 2004

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DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO END POVERTY IN CA.
FAIRS ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This letter is to encourage your signature of AB 824 (Matthews), which will preserve local control and equity in state matching funds to California counties for the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.

AB 824 affects only Alpine, Mariposa, Tuolumne and Stanislaus Counties. It provides that the four small rural counties that act as direct IHSS employers of record, in compliance with existing state law, can receive state matching funds without incurring the expense of establishing new IHSS Public Authority bureaucracies.

This bill corrects a technical problem in current law that authorizes counties to select one of four methods for the delivery of IHSS services. Existing law, however, only pays the state's share of cost for three of those methods. As a result of this inadvertent error, these four counties do not receive the same state share of cost that the other 54 counties receive, because they have chosen to meet their legal requirements without establishing new IHSS Public Authority bureaucracy.

Establishing a Public Authority in these four counties would actually increase state costs, as county expenses for establishing the new bureaucracy are reimbursable by the state. AB 824 avoids this unnecessary expense, while affording these four counties equal status with all other counties when they deliver In Home Supportive Services to their low-income blind, disabled and elderly citizens.

Your administration has already demonstrated its commitment to the needs of IHSS clients and workers during the 2004-05 budget process and in your California Performance Review. AB 824 meets the intent of the law and the needs of IHSS clients and workers while keeping overhead costs at a minimum. I hope you agree and that you will support this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie".

TIM LESLIE
Assemblyman, Fourth District

TL:jm